

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 416

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORC, PFOR, EI

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: MULTILATERAL INFORMATION ON IRELAND

REF: STATE 037591

1. FOLLOWING IS KEYED TO SUBPARAGRAPHS IN PARA 7 OF REFTEL:

(A) WE EXPECT IRELAND TO TAKE A RATHER PASSIVE ROLE IN ALMOST ALL
MULTILATERAL BODIES IN 1976 AND DO NOT KNOW OF ANY ISSUES OR
INITIATIVES WHICH WILL BE PARTICULARLY PUSHED BY THE GOI.
ACCORDING TO MFA COUNSELOR CRAIG, THE IRISH WILL CONCENTRATE
THEIR EFFORTS AT THE UN THIS YEAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS, BUT
WILL NOT PUT FORTH ANY INITIATIVES OF THEIR OWN.

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IN GENERAL IRELAND GOES ALONG WITH THE EC NINE ON VIRTUALLY

EVERYTHING IN WHICH THE NINE CAN REACH CONSENSUS AND IT DOES NOT GET OUT IN FRONT IN EC DELIBERATIONS. WHERE THE EC DISAGREES AMONG ITSELF, FOR INSTANCE ON THE VARIOUS DECOLONIZATION RESOLUTIONS, THE GOI TRIES TO REMAIN INCONSPICUOUSLY NEUTRAL, WHICH IN SOME CASES MEANS ABSTENTION WHERE WE WOULD PREFER A POSITIVE VOTE. WHEN THE RARE EC DISAGREEMENTS ARE SEEN TO AFFECT IRISH SELF-INTEREST THEN THE GOI WILL TAKE A MORE POSITIVE STANCE. CURRENTLY THE LAW OF THE SEA IS THE BEST EXAMPLE, WHERE IRELAND WILL NOT ACCEPT THE EC COMMISSION'S PLAN FOR EC QUOTAS WITHIN A 200 MILE LIMIT -- THIS IS SEEN AS A THREAT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN IRISH FISHING INDUSTRY.

THE MAIN IRISH CANDIDATE FOR MULTILATERAL POSITION IN 1976 WILL BE LABOR MINISTER MICHAEL O'LEARY WHO IS EXPECTED TO GET THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT OF THE ILO GENERAL CONFERENCE. THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY OF FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD BECOMING EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT, BUT THIS WOULD NOT OCCUR UNTIL EARLY 1977. THE IRISH HAVE DEFERRED THEIR BID FOR A 1979-80 SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT TO 1980-81 BECAUSE THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THEY COULD HANDLE THE EC PRESIDENCY AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT THE SAME TIME.

(B) ANSWERED ABOVE. MOST DECISIONS ON MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS ARE TAKEN IN THE EC CONTEXT. IN CERTAIN SPECIAL AREAS, SUCH AS DISARMAMENT, WHERE THE EC IS SELDOM IN AGREEMENT, THE IRISH OFTEN FEEL THEMSELVES TO BE WITH AN INFORMAL EUROPEAN "NEUTRAL" GROUP LED BY SWEDEN. FOR INSTANCE, IRELAND HAS CO-SPONSORED SWEDISH RESOLUTIONS BANNING NAPALM. IN OTHER CONTEXTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE, IRELAND GROUPS ITSELF WITH THE "DEVELOPED" WORLD. IN SECURITY MATTERS SUCH AS CSCE IT NOT ONLY GOES WITH THE EC BUT CONSIDERS ITSELF PART OF "WESTERN EUROPE."

(C) YES FOR ALL THREE QUESTIONS.

(D) NO

(E) SINCE IRISH/EC INTERESTS AND USG INTERESTS ARE USUALLY SIMILAR, WE CAN GIVE A QUALIFIED YES, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE ANY INHERENT INFLUENCE ON IRISH DECISIONS DESPITE CLOSE CULTURAL TIES. WE CAN, HOWEVER, CONVINCE THE IRISH IN EARLY STAGES OF DECISIONS IF WE CAN ARGUE PERSUASIVELY "ON PRINCIPLE," AND THE IRISH LISTEN TO CONFIDENTIAL

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US VERY CAREFULLY ON SUCH APPROACHES. THUS IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE DEPT. FURNISH AS MUCH BACKGROUND ON ISSUES AS POSSIBLE. IN THE MATTER OF INTERACTION ON THESE ISSUES AS PART OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, WE BELIEVE THAT ALTHOUGH THE IRISH ARE SENSITIVE TO GOOD USG-GOI RELATIONS, IN A PRACTICAL SENSE WE HAVE VERY LITTLE LEVERAGE.

2. DUBLIN MLO IS POLITICAL OFFICER ROBERT W. DUBOSE.

CURLEY

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